

Appl. No. 09/713,163
Amdt. dated September 19, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 19, 2003

Remarks

Claims 1-58 are pending in this Application, with claims 22-32, 39-46, 48 and 50-58 being allowed and claims 4-12, 14, 20, and 35-37 being allowable. By this Amendment, claims 1, 33 and 41 have been amended and claims 3, 4, 36, 47 and 49 have been canceled. As a result, claims 1, 2, 5-35, 37-46, 48 and 50-58 are at issue.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 33 to include the subject matter of dependent claims that were indicated as allowable in the Office Action mailed May 19, 2003. Independent claim 41 was amended to further define the invention and Applicants submit that Claim 41 remains in allowed form. The amendments to claims 1, 33 and 41 are fully supported by Applicants' disclosure and do not introduce any new matter.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe the Application is in a condition for allowance, and respectfully request early notice of the same. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned attorney if the Examiner has any questions concerning this Reply, or if it will expedite the progress of this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

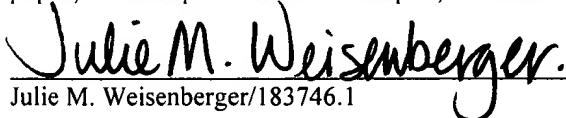
Date: September 19, 2003

By: 

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 19, 2003.


Julie M. Weisenberger/183746.1

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